quarterly basis. Review meetings are laid with State Govts. regarding enforcement of laws relating to child labour. The matter was reviewed in the Labour Minister's Conference on 8-7-93. For better enforcement training of enforcement officers is taken up periodically.

Chil Labourers in lime stone and State stone quarries in Andhra Pradesh

3582. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of children work in Lime stone and Slate stone quarries of Andhra Pradesh, specially in Makarpur area;

(b) whether it is a fact that these children work in extremely inhuman, unhealthy and exploitative conditions and on very low wages; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the measures Government are taking to improve the conditions of these hapless child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Children below the age of 18 years are prohibited to work in any mine or part thereof under the Mines Act, 1952. However, it has been observed that children work in quarries. National Child Labour Project is running in Markapur in Andhra Pradesh for children withdrawn from Slate industry. 20 special schools with a capacity of 1000 children have been set up under the Project.

Proposal to introduce insurance fund for employees

3583. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to involve all employees in the scheme "Insurance fund for employees" to meet the hardships of unemployment, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the necessity of framing a scheme or law with an object to face unemployment is over felt by Government, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether trade unions have ever suggested the need for "insurance fund for employees" as a cover against unemployment, retrenchment, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) At present, there is no scheme such as Insurance Fund for employees', to meet the hardships of unemployment, in operation. No suggestion has been received from the trade unions in this regard. However, the Government has established the National Renewal Fund with the objectives of providing assistance for retraining and redeployment of workers as a result of modernisation, industrial restructuring and for providing funds or employment generation schemes both in the organised and unorganised sectors in order to provide a social safety net for labour needs arising from the consequences of industrial restructuring.